INCORPORATED SHAPE

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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STATE & LOCAL AFFAIRS DIVISION BRIAN JUDY, MONTANA STATE LIAISON

January 29, 2007

TO:

Members, Senate Judiciary Committee

FROM:

Brian Judy, NRA – ILA State Liaison

RE:

Senate Bill 309 – **SUPPORT**

On behalf of the more than 27,000 Montana members of the National Rifle Association, I urge your support for Senate Bill 309, the "Emergency Powers" legislation.

Recent events in the New Orleans area during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina demonstrate that the right to keep and bear arms is especially important during a state of emergency. The very basis of the Second Amendment is the empowerment of individuals with the right to self-protection; and when is self-protection more critical than during a time of disaster when law enforcement resources are stretched beyond their limits.

Senate Bill 309 is a very simple bill that would protect law-abiding Montana citizens from experiencing the blatant violation of their constitutional rights that occurred in New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina where law-abiding citizens were stripped of their firearms by a few overzealous government officials. NRA was forced to file a lawsuit to stop this egregious violation of the rights of people who were only trying to protect their families and property.

This bill would simply clarify that, during any state of emergency, no government official shall impose restrictions on the lawful possession, transfer, sale, transport, storage, display or use of firearms or ammunition.

Help ensure that New Orleans-style tyranny will never happen in Montana by voting to support Senate Bill 309!

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Thank you for your time and attention to this matter, and should you have any questions or comments, I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Carolyn L. Herbertson

Montana State Liaison

National Rifle Association Institute for Legislative Action

State and Local Affairs Division

cc: Ms. Susan Recce, Director, NRA Conservation Wildlife and National Resources Mr. Randy Kozuch, Director, NRA State and Local Affairs Division